(b) whether any State has demanded for amending loan-grant ratio; and

(c) if so, the demand of State Governments in this regard and the decision expected to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Central Assistance flowed to States on a Schematic basis until the year 1968. From 1969 the Gadgil-Mukherjee formula, was approved by the National Development Council, wherein Central assistance would flow to the States as block assistance without being tied to any specific sector in the loan grant ratio of 70:30 for general category States and 10:90 for Special Category States. This assistance popularly came to be known as Normal Central Assistance. Over the years, however, Gadgil Formula underwent several changes and several components of Schematic/ Programme-related assistance were introduced. However, all assistance, other than programme-related assistance, including Additional Central Assistance, Special Plan Assistance, Special Central Assistance and Externally Aided Projects flowed in the loan grant ratio of 70:30 for General Category States and 10:90 for the Sepecial Category States in the Normal Central Assistance pattern.

Rajasthan raised the demand in the last National Development Council meeting in June 2005, for enhancing the grant component of Central Assistance. However, there is no proposal under the consideration of Planning Commission for the modification in the loan grant pattern for the allocation of Normal Central Assistance.

**Promotion of Buddhist sites**

*372. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to launch a concerted campaign for promotion of Buddhist sites of the country especially to attract overseas tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the details of the Buddhist sites in Orissa where the upgradation of the infrastructure is proposed to be taken up under this project?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Promotion of tourism through Incredible India campaigns is a continuous process. The Buddhist Heritage of India is one of the themes taken up for promotion in the domestic and international markets through integrated campaigns. Last year a campaign entitled "Walk with the Buddha" was launched in key Buddhist markets.

(c) No proposal has been received from the State Government of Orissa for development of infrastructure in the Buddhist sites during the current year 2006-07. However, a project for integrated development of Buddhist Circuit in Orissa covering Lalitgiri, Ratnagiri, Udaigiri and Langudi for Rs. 740.67 lakh and a project for development of Peace Park and Amphitheatre at Dhauli for Rs. 488.51 lakh were sanctioned in 2004-05. A Statement showing the projects sanctioned for the State of Orissa during the Tenth Plan is enclosed.

***Statement***

*The year-wise details of projects sanctioned during 10th plan for Orissa*

**(Rs. in lakh)**

| Sl. No. | Name of the Scheme | Amount sanctioned |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| | **2002-03** | |
| 1. | Rural Tourism Project at Raghurajpur | 50.00 |
| 2. | Computerisation of office and its Groups | 7.50 |
| | TOTAL: | **57.50** |
| | **2003-04** | |
| 1. | Konark Festival | 5.00 |
| 2. | Development of Puri as a Tourist destination | 394.55 |
| 3. | Rajrani Music Festival | 5.00 |
| 4. | Buddha Mahotsav | 10.00 |
| 5. | Folk Dance Festivals | 5.00 |
| | TOTAL: | **419.55** |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| **2004-05** | | |
| 1. | Development of Peace Park and Amphitheater at Dhauli (Distt. Khurda) | 488.51 |
| 2. | Integrated Development of Buddhist Circuit in Orissa - Development of facilities at Lalitgiri, Ratnagiri, Udaigiri and Langudi under Tourist Circuit | 740.67 |
| 3. | Shreekshetra Vasant Festival at Puri | 15.00 |
| 4. | Kheravala Festival, 2004-05 | 5.00 |
| 5. | GOI-UNDP Endogenous Tourism Project at village Pipli in Puri Distt. | 20.00 |
| 6. | GOI-UNDP Endogenous Tourism Project at village Raghurajpur in Puri Distt. | 20.00 |
| 7. | Development of village Pipli in Puri Distt. | 50.00 |
| | TOTAL: | **1339.18** |
| | **2005-06** | |
| 1. | Development of Gopalpur-on-Sea (Distt. Ganjam) | 331.43 |
| 2. | Development of Sakhi Gopal (Distt. Puri) | 294.04 |
| 3. | Development of Taptapani in Distt. Ganjam as Tourist Destination | 500.00 |
| 4. | Development of Chilka Lake in Distt Puri and Ganjam as Tourist Destination | 389.05 |
| 5. | Integrated Development of Tourist Circuit Bhubaneswar-Dhauli-Puri- Konark | 720.09 |
| 6. | Development of Rural Tourism at Village Khiching, Distt. Mayurbhanj | 50.00 |
| 7. | Shreeshetra Festival at Puri | 15.00 |
| 8. | Puri Beach Festival, 2005 | 4.00 |
| 9. | Konark Festival, 2005 | 3.00 |
| 10. | Rajrani Festival, 2005 at Bhubaneswar | 3.00 |
| | TOTAL: | **2309.61** |
| | **2006-07** | |
| 1. | Development of Similipal in Distt. Mayurbhanj as Tourist Destination | 297.12 |